

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for monitoring at least two electromagnetic valves of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two valves is independent of other ones of the at least two valves and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two valves is preselected, the method comprising:

determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two valves;
adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;
comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and
monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two valves and the at least two valves based on the comparison result.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the actual currents supplied to the at least two valves are measured by at least two measuring devices and are added to form the total actual current.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the actual currents supplied to the at least two valves are measured by a single measuring device and are used as the total actual current.

20. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A method of claim 17 for monitoring at least two electromagnetic valves of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two valves is independent of other ones of the at least two valves and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two valves is preselected, the method comprising:

determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two valves;
adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;
comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and

monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two valves and the at least two valves based on the comparison result,

wherein a holding current, via which a corresponding one of the at least two valves is held in an end position in a stable manner, is used as the actual current.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein a quenching current, which results from electric energy remaining in at least one of the at least two valves after shutdown of the holding current, is used as the actual current.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein a fault in one of the at least two valves is deduced from a difference between the total setpoint current and the total actual current.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein, in chronologically successive measurements and comparisons, a faulty valve of the at least two valves is deduced from an instant when the difference occurs.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer program executable on a computer arrangement, comprising:

program code for monitoring at least two electromagnetic valves of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two valves is independent of other ones of the at least two valves and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two valves is preselected, by performing the following:

determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two valves;

adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;

comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and

monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two valves and the at least two valves based on the comparison result.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer medium having a computer program executable on a computer arrangement, comprising:

program code for monitoring at least two electromagnetic valves of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two valves is

independent of other ones of the at least two valves and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two valves is preselected, by performing the following:

- determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two valves;
- adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;
- comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and
- monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two valves and the at least two valves based on the comparison result.

26. (Previously Presented) A device for monitoring at least two electromagnetic valves of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two valves is independent of other ones of the at least two valves and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two valves is preselected, comprising:

an arrangement, which includes a control arrangement, to determine a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two valves, add the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current, compare the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result, and monitor at least one of an interconnection of the at least two valves and the at least two valves based on the comparison result.

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein at least two measuring devices measure the actual currents supplied to the at least two valves, and the measured actual currents are added by the control arrangement to form the total actual current.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein a single measuring device measures the currents supplied to the at least two valves, and the measured actual currents are used by the control arrangement as the total actual current.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein d.c. converters generate the actual currents supplied to the at least two valves.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein an output stage controls the actual currents supplied to the at least two valves.

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the output stage includes switches which are switchable by the control arrangement.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for monitoring at least two electric consumers of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two electric consumers is independent of other ones of the at least two electric consumers and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two electric consumers is preselected, the method comprising:

- determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two electric consumers;

- adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;

- comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and

- monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two electric consumers and the at least two electric consumers based on the comparison result.

33. (Previously Presented) A device for monitoring at least two electric consumers of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two electric consumers is independent of other ones of the at least two electric consumers and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two electric consumers is preselected, comprising:

- an arrangement, which includes a control arrangement, to determine a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two electric consumers, add the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current, compare the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result, and monitor at least one of an interconnection of the at least two electric consumers and the at least two electric consumers based on the comparison result.

34. (Previously Presented) A computer medium having a computer program executable on a computer arrangement, comprising:

- program code for monitoring at least two electric consumers of an internal combustion engine, in which an actual current sent to each of the at least two electric consumers is independent of other ones of the at least two electric consumers and in which a setpoint current for each of the at least two electric consumers is preselected, by performing the following:

- determining a total actual current that is supplied to the at least two electric consumers;

- adding the setpoint currents to form a total setpoint current;

comparing the total setpoint current to the total actual current and providing a comparison result; and

monitoring at least one of an interconnection of the at least two electric consumers and the at least two electric consumers based on the comparison result.